



BALLARD CIVIC (MUNICIPAL) CENTER PARK DEVELOPMENT **PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #3**

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

Ballard High School Library

MEETING SUMMARY – DRAFT

PAT Members Present:

Marianne Forssblad	John Marasco
Rosalie Holcomb	Beth Miller
Davidya Kasperzyk	Jeanette Plutchok
Stephen Lundgren	Micah Shapiro

PAT Member Resigned:

Charles Anderson
Sarah Neilson

Other attendees:

Jon Jainga, Parks Project Manager
Cathy Tuttle, Parks Planner
Barbara Swift, Swift & Company Landscape Architects
Lisa Corry, Swift & Company Landscape Architects
Valerie Otani, Project Artist

Meeting Facilitator: Cathy Tuttle

Design Schedule:

Start of design: 3rd Quarter 2004
Construction start: 1st Quarter 2005

Welcome:

Cathy Tuttle opened the meeting. The PAT sign-in sheet was circulated and ground rules of careful listening and response were presented.

Role of PAT:

The overall role of the PAT, as directed by Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds, is to evaluate, review, and comment on skate park elements and possible water features as outlined in the approved New Skate Bowl Study 2 schematic plan. The PAT members should also report back to their constituent community as the park design progresses. The set task for the second Ballard PAT meeting was to review and comment on the current park design and try to reach consensus on design development.

Previous Meeting Notes: The summary from PAT meeting #2 on 7-20-04 was reviewed and approved.

Community comments:

Seven community members testified at the meeting.

1. Kate Martin. Does not like plan or details. Wants more benches, a bathroom, and more Scandinavian design.
2. Dan Barnett. Wants bigger skatebowl. Wants existing bowl. Thinks outside of bowl design is wasted space, wants more skateable spaces, benches. Puget Sound Skate Assn. can help to raise additional money for a larger skate area.
3. Matt Johnson. Encouraged and excited by the design of skate area but wants more information. Edges around bowl need to be configured for young/new skaters. More of the whole park should be “skate-friendly.”

Bowl should be posted to keep out BMX bikes.

4. Gabriel Rummonds. Opposes any skate park. Park should be tranquil. Skaters belong in Golden Gardens Park. Too much graffiti and noise in current park. Worried about noise.
5. John Carr. Believes skaters and the City have learned a lot about each other during this park process. Can't scale down the skate bowl. Seattle Center skate bowl is too small and therefore dangerous. Parks should continue to get skater input about details and seating around skate area.
6. Bernadette Roberts. Seating is important for non-skaters. Skater safety is important. Would like bathrooms.
7. Nick Dallett. Likes current bowl but believes new design will be successful if current size is kept. Wants better spectator area and better noise control.

Design Description:

The project landscape architectural consultants, Barbara Swift and Lisa Corry described the current design elements to PAT members. Swift focused on overall design while Corry described park details.

Overall design details

- Current design is within budget.
- Design grew out of the Ballard Civic Center Master Plan and then worked to balance a variety of users and uses.
- Sidewalk is an extension of the park, as recommended by the Ballard Civic Center Master Plan.
- Park design elements and program have remained consistent since approved schematic: lawn, circulation, skate area, trees.
- Changes made since approved schematic include: a wider N-S path, refined grades to provide separation for various user groups, skate area moved slightly east, wider mid-block crossing that allows spillover use at south end.
- Fountain refined and defined (described below)
- Amphitheater has become more of a plaza with less paving, more of an extension of library space.
- Seating is focused around the fountain.
- What is gone: rain drums (water feature focus now on fountain); children's play areas are integrated with full park development.
- Swift listed the modifications to the design development drawings that will be made as requested by Parks staff: the benches need to be ADA accessible, easily maintained and comfortable; the children's sculpture cannot have sand in it; the fountain area needs to be moved further from the street; and more benches are needed overlooking the skate area.

Park details

- The whole park is visually accessible with high canopy of trees and low plantings.
- Pedestrian pole lights light all pathways.
- The NW corner of the park is passive, quiet, and the highest point of park, defined by a grove of birch/evergreen. The street is integrated with benches, lights, trees.
- Lawn is largest area of park and has multiple uses. The lawn/plaza can accommodate 33 festival tents and 200-700 users. Gently sloping lawn

ideal for festivals or performances.

- The skate area is not an isolated feature but one of many important elements. Entry to skate area is at grade from the north. Deck surrounding the skate area is all ADA accessible under 5% grade. East of the skate deck are stairs and seating walls and a rail for gathering and leaning. Based on PAT comments Parks will add more seating associated with skate area.
- The skate bowl has shallow area, waterfall, hemisphere, tunnel and slopes to deeper area, down as much as 13' from the rim. Railings for grinding or spectator viewing. A raised area on the lip of the bowl provides additional skating challenges. Airspeed, the skate design sub-consultant, has emulated successful relationships including hips from existing bowl.
- Plaza is center of gravity, the park's focal point and destination. People can pause or move easily through it. Plaza is framed by trees and vegetation, a sloped land form, fountain, and seating focused to south and at water feature to allow for sun or shade.

- Art feature description:** Project artist Valerie Otani described her work on the fountain and interactive shell forms, sharing materials and photographs with the PAT.
- Art is meant to connect library and park together from swoop of the library roof and its landscaping to energy bubbling out of the park plaza.
 - Fountain and forms will provide a rich learning/interactive environment. Spouting shells will encourage people to pour water in and see it transformed.
 - Fountain and sculptural elements have same goals: to be lasting, meaningful artworks for Ballard.
 - Water feature suggests natural form – a leaf, spine – but has no precise definition. The fountain will be made of durable granite, with misters, bubblers, spray, and LED lights at night. Runnels 4-6" deep will recirculate water and create white noise. Design is meant to appeal to multiple ages.
 - Simplified natural forms will appeal with their rich texture including materials such as inset cast glass and glass bricks in granite. Interactive art elements suggest marine/beach materials.

- PAT discussion:**
1. **Beth Miller.** Likes design. Elements and pieces work well together. Meets needs of general community as well as for events, skaters, library, sitting. Especially likes park relationship to library.
 2. **Davidya Kasperzyk.** Design is modest and beautiful, filled with quality ideas. Park can be iconic for community. Modesty is a Scandinavian quality. Has some concerns about vegetation choices. Questioned why QFC building was not set back so that condos next to the park could open into the park as directed in the Ballard Civic Center Master Plan.
 3. **John Marasco.** Likes design and appreciates bowl has moved to east. Doesn't like tall trees next to the QFC building. Wonders how bowl will interact with the sidewalk.
 4. **Micah Shapiro.** Likes the way elements work together. Believes any hard, durable material in the park will be skated on unless skaters have clarity about what can and cannot be skated on. Does not think there is enough area for younger/beginner skaters.
 5. **Rosalie Holcomb.** Sees need for more skate area for young kids. Worries about visibility with so many trees. Wants less rails, more

benches and picnic tables near skate area. Stairs to the east of the bowl are dangerous because they will be skated on.

6. **Marianne Forssblad.** Design supports multiple park uses but skate bowl dominates more than it should. Surprised that this much skate area does not satisfy skaters. Wants as many areas as possible where families are welcome. Design does not enough provide adequate ties to Ballard's past. Maritime theme does not reflect Scandinavian culture – birch trees and granite are not sufficient. Team needs to listen to Ballard's maritime and Scandinavian communities in order to reflect past and present. Likes fountain because it is good for families with kids. Would like wooden rather than stone benches.
7. **Jeannette Pluchock.** Likes design and thinks it is an excellent compromise. Believes high tree canopy will be safe. As a nearby neighbor, she would like to bring realities of current street/homeless users to Park's attention. Looks forward to a park that has the energy of children and young people. Concerned about skater safety.
8. **Stephen Lundgren.** Likes organic shape of the bowl. Wants to make sure people have mobility within park and that the park design supports a wide range of users and visitors. Concerned that trees in the west will shade the park. Likes the water element and the look of bare birch trees in winter. Admonishes Parks to pay attention to maintenance and to make sure issues of plumbing, mechanicals, utilities, and noise are addressed.

PAT consensus points:

PAT members agreed on the following:

1. Like design and its compromise to multiple users and needs.
2. Skate area needs a more clear definition – especially regarding what in the park is skateable and what is not. Areas for new skaters need to be refined, and better seating for spectators needs to be provided.
3. Clearly address safety and shade within the park.
4. Try to capture more of the sense of “Ballard” in the park.

Handouts:

* Agenda, summary of 7/20/04 PAT meeting #2, current Design Development drawings.

Summary By:

Cathy Tuttle

Additional Information is Available:

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/ballardMunicipalCenterPark.htm>
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks Project Manager, (206) 684-7054 jon.jainga@seattle.gov
- Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, (206) 684-7033; cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov
- Susan Golub, Parks Strategic Advisor Skate Advisory Committee, 684-7046 susan.golub@seattle.gov